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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Appl. No. : 10/743,747 Confirmation No. 9683
Applicant : Takashi SUNOHARA et al.
Filed : December 24, 2003
TC/A.U. : 1724
Examiner : Unknown
Dkt. No. : NPR-133
Cust. No. : 20374

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

April 20, 2004

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each document is attached.

No fee or statement is required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement, since it is being submitted prior to the last of (1) issuance of a first official action on the merits and (2) expiration of the three month period following filing of the above-captioned application.

Documents DA and DB are in the English language. Therefore,

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no concise explanation of the relevance of the documents is believed to be required under 37 C.F.R. §1.98.

Documents FA and FC to FH are not in the English language. However, the concise explanation of the relevance of the documents required under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 is believed to be satisfied by the submission of English language abstracts thereof.

Document FB is not in the English language. However, the document contains an English language abstract and the concise explanation of the relevance of the documents required under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 is believed to be satisfied thereby.

Document FI is also not in the English language. An English language abstract, equivalent or family member is not available. However, the document is described in the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 22 (paragraph [0013]), of the specification of the present invention. The concise explanation of the relevance of the documents required under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 is believed to be satisfied thereby.

Please note that document DA is described in the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 21 (paragraph [0003]), of the specification of the present application. Document DB is described in the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 11 (paragraph [0004]).

Please note that Document FA issued as Japanese Patent No.

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2961481, which is described in the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 1 (paragraph [0008]), of the specification of the present application. Document FB is also described in the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 1 (paragraph [0008]). Documents FB and FC are described in the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 21 (paragraph [0010]).

Please also note that documents FB and FD to FH are described in the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 9 (paragraph [0011]), of the specification of the present application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 111833 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: PTO-1449
11 Documents

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner's Initial	Document No.	Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date If appropriate
UA						
UB						
UC						
UD						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner's Initial	Document No.	Date	Country	Translation Yes/No/Partial
FA	7-59849 A /	03/07/95	JP	Abstract
FB	98/22161 A1 ✓	05/28/98	WO	Abstract
FC	8-168525 A ✓	07/02/96	JP	Abstract
FD	8-192031 A ✓	07/30/96	JP	Abstract
FE	11-9684 A ✓	01/19/99	JP	Abstract
FF	11-394 A ✓	01/06/99	JP	Abstract
FG	11-319080 A ✓	11/24/99	JP	Abstract
FH	11-319079 A ✓	11/24/99	JP	Abstract
FI	2 267 138 ✓	11/07/75	FR	No

OTHER DOCUMENTS

Examiner's Initial		
DA	Gejyo, F. et al., "New Form of Amyloid Protein Associated with Chronic Hemodialysis Was Identified as β_2 -Microglobulin", <i>Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications</i> , Vol. 129, No. 3, 1985, pp. 701-706.	
DB	Baurmeister, U. et al., "High-flux Dialysis Membranes: Endotoxin Transfer by Backfiltration Can Be a Problem", <i>Nephrol Dial Transplant</i> , v. 4, Supplement, 1989, pp.89-93.	
DC		

Examiner:	Date Considered:
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KTK/jbf